BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Framework Agreements for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement have also been signed with ASEAN, Thailand and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

(d) Possibilities of having Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements/Free Trade Agreements are being explored with Malaysia, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and Chile. India and European Union have established a High Level Trade Group to study and explore ways and means to deepen and widen their bilateral trade and investment relationship.

Incentives for industralisation

314. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a package of economic incentives and concessions to promote industrialisation in some States;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether some of the incentives have been withdrawn by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government had announced a New Industrial Policy for North-East (NEIP) on 24.12.1997. Thereafter, Special Packages of economic incentives and other concessions were notified for the States of Jammu & Kashmir on 14.06.2002; Sikkim on 23.12.2002; and Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal on 07.01.2003. Under these packages, various incentives/ concessions, for industrialization of these States, have been provided, which, *inter alia,* include excise exemption, income tax exemption and Central Capital Investment Subsidy. However, excise duty exemption in the States other than the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir is available to the units set up or expanded on or before March 31, 2007.